

REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION

GENERAL REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-18, 20-21, 24-35, 37-38, and 41-52 are pending. Claims 2, 5-6, 19, 22-23, 36, and 39-40 have been cancelled.

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

The Abstract is objected to for containing more than one paragraph. In response, Assignee has replaced the Abstract to remove the objection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 6-9, 12-16, 23-26, 29-33, 40-43, and 46-50 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Assignee has made the following amendments:

- Independent claims 1, 18, and 35 have been amended to include the limitations of their respective allowable claims (6, 23, 40) and intervening claims (2 and 5, 19 and 22, 36 and 39) so that claims 1, 18, and 35 and those depending therefrom are believed to be allowable.
- Allowable claims 9, 26, and 43 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims (1, 18, 35) and intervening claims (2, 19, 36) so that claims 9, 26, and 43 are believed to be allowable.
- Allowable claims 12, 29, and 46 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claim (1, 18, 35) so that claims 12, 29, and 46 and those depending therefrom are believed to be allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5, 10-11, 17-22, 27-28, 34-39, 44-45, and 51-52 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koeppen (US 5761667) in view of Capps (US 6397311). With the above amendments, Assignee believes that the rejection is now moot and that all pending claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 501922, referencing 149-0031US.

To facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion, reconsideration, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

/Sean McDermott/

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Submitted Electronically Via EFS Web

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